

Urban District Council of Newton-le-Willows

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1949

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NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council :

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. C. CARR.

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council :

W. H. J. BROWNE.

Health Committee :

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR L. KENT.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR C. L. TYRER.

Members :

Councillor A. E. BARNETT

„ MRS. CARR

„ MRS. E. CROUCHLEY, J.P.

„ J. MORRIS

„ MRS. E. NIGHTINGALE

„ E. J. THOMPSON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Staff :

Medical Officer of Health :

A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

* Chief Sanitary Inspector :

L. M. BOOTH, Cert.S.I.B., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

* Additional Sanitary Inspector :

K. HILTON, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

MISS B. TWISS

* Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors (R.S.I.).

**The Chairman, and Members of the
Newton-le-Willows Urban District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your perusal my Report on the health conditions of the Urban District for the year 1949, a year which has seen the steady consolidation and fulfilment of schemes engendered by the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act, 1948, both of which became operative on the "appointed day" of 5th July, 1948. As stated in my report for the previous year, changes in administrative responsibilities proceeded smoothly, and have since continued to do so; the last major amendment being the assumption of full responsibility for the Ambulance Service by the County Council, on 1st February, 1949. Thus only one of the major provisions of the Health Service Act which prescribe the Local Health Authorities' duties now remains unfulfilled, i.e., the provision and administration of Health Centres; but the implementation of this plan must perforce remain in abeyance pending improvement in the national and international political and economic situations, and a more ready supply of labour and building materials.

So far as the Vital Statistics of the area are concerned, there has been a slight increase (over the figure for the year 1948) in both the Live Birth Rate and the Crude Death Rate; but both these rates are below the mean figures for the five years 1944-48 inclusive. The infantile death rate is very slightly lower than that for last year (56/1000 as compared with 57/1000), but is regrettably considerably higher than that for the country as a whole (32). I am happy to be able to record that no cases of Small Pox, the Enteric Group Fevers, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Diphtheria, Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Puerperal Fever occurred, nor was there any maternal death attributable to or associated with child birth. On the other hand, figures for Tuberculosis showed an appreciable increase on those for the previous year (20 as against 13) and deaths from this disease totalled 9 as against 7 in 1948, and there was also an appreciable increase in the incidence of both Scarlet Fever and Measles; but cases of Whooping Cough totalled approximately only one third of those recorded in 1948.

The most urgent matters affecting communal health in the District are undoubtedly connected with housing, water supplies, and the purification of the natural water courses which traverse the area. The first of these is at least as great a national, as a local problem: the second, provision of a more copious water supply, has been met temporarily by the arrangement with British Railways, and by the plans proposed for using water flowing from the N.C.B. borehole, which resulted in the Public Enquiry held by the Ministry of Health in June, 1949: the third, really a regional problem, can only be dealt with in conjunction with contiguous authorities, and cannot be per-

mantly and satisfactorily resolved until completion of the Sankey Valley Sewerage Scheme enables industrial and domestic sources of pollution to be disposed of without recourse to natural drainage by open ditches and streams.

The year 1949 is the first full calendar year during which the changes in administration brought about by the National Health Service Act, 1946, have been in operation, and I have therefore thought it relevant and advisable (and in accordance with my duties as prescribed by the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935) to report as concisely as I may on the ancillary Health Services of the County Council—(as the “Local Health Authority”)—which are available to the public of the Urban District. Without doubt these services must of necessity have a most important bearing on Communal Health.

On balance it would be fair to say that the general position, whilst on the whole satisfactory, gives no ground for complacency. Much remains to be done, and constant vigilance and effort is called for in order not merely to maintain, but to improve the true health of the populace.

I would take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all members of the Council and to my colleagues on the staff, particularly those in the Health Department, for their ever-ready assistance, support and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL INFORMATION.

The major portion of the district is truly urban in character, with a relatively small acreage of a rural character. It is "built up" with the homes of the people, with shops, Offices, Workshops, Factories, Churches, Mission Halls, Clubs, Hotels and all the usual ancillary buildings which serve a civilised community. The main industries are Light and Heavy Engineering, Sugar Refining, Printing and Stationery manufacture, Bleaching, Dyeing and Calico Printing and Raincoat manufacture. As would be expected from the urban character of the district, agriculture plays only a very minor role in its activities.

2. STATISTICS—GENERAL.

Area in acres: 3,103 Population (Census, 1931): 20,150.

Inhabited Houses :

(Estimated mid-1949, : 21,650.

(Census, 1931): 4,862.

Rate Books (end 1948) : 6,250.

Rateable Value £104,279.

Sum represented by a penny rate	....	£406
Births assignable to District	....	357
Deaths assignable to District	....	234
" Natural Increase "	....	123

3. VITAL STATISTICS.

Births :

Live Births 357.	Legitimate 344.	Illegitimate 13.
	Male 182	Male 6
	Female 162	Female 7

Live Birth Rate=165 per 1,000 population.

Still Births 9. Male 5. Female 4.

Still Birth Rate 25 per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.

Deaths.

General	Male	Female	Death Rates	
234	138	96	"Crude" 10.8	"Adjusted" 11.8

The “ adjusted ” death rate is the “ Crude ” death rate after adjustment by a “ comparability factor ” supplied by the Registrar General.

Infant Deaths (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age).

Total Infant Mortality Rate, 56

Total 20 Male, 14. Female, 6. Infant Mortality Rate of
Legitimate Infants, 55
Infant Mortality Rate of
Illegitimate Infants, 77

Maternal Deaths.

Nil. Maternal Death Rate, Nil.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL TABLES.

Rates per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respirat'y system	Death Rate from Cancer	Mat'nal M'tality Rate per 1,000		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births
					Live Births	Total (live and still) births	
Mean of 5 yrs.							
1944-48 ...	17.4	11.4	0.42	1.85	1.10	1.06	59
Year—1948 ...	16.1	9.9	0.32	1.86	Nil.	Nil.	57
1949 ...	16.5	10.8	0.37	1.80	Nil.	Nil.	56
Increase or decrease in 1949 on 5 years avge....							
1944-1948...	—0.9	—0.6	—0.05	—0.05	—1.10	—1.06	—3
Previous yr....	+0.4	+0.9	+0.05	—0.06	Nil.	Nil.	—1

Comparison of Births Rates, Death Rates and Analysis of Morbidity and Mortality with those for England and Wales.

						Newton-le-Willows		England and Wales
						1948	1949	1949
						Rate per 1,000 Population		
Births—Live						16.1	16.5	16.7
Still						0.28	0.41	0.39
Deaths—All causes						9.9	11.8	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers...						0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough						0.14	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria						0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis						0.32	0.37	0.45
Influenza						0.00	0.15	0.15
Small Pox						0.00	0.00	0.00
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Encephalitis...						0.00	0.00	0.01
Pneumonia						0.32	0.50	0.51
Notifications—								
Typhoid Fever						0.00	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever						0.00	0.00	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever						0.00	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever						3.12	4.11	1.63
Whooping Cough						9.10	3.09	2.39
Diphtheria						0.00	0.00	0.04
Erysipelas						0.32	0.55	0.19
Small Pox						0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles						10.23	14.50	8.95
Pneumonia						2.34	1.06	0.80
Ac. Poliomyelitis						0.00	0.09	0.13
Ac. Polio-encephalitis						0.00	0.00	0.01
Food Poisoning						0.00	0.00	0.14
						Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
Deaths—All causes under 1 year of age ...						57.	56.	32.
Enteritis and Diarrhoea								
Under 2 years of age ...						5.77	0.71	3.0
Maternal Mortality—								
Abortion with Sepsis						0.00	0.00	0.11
Abortion without Sepsis						0.00	0.00	0.05
Puerperal Infections						0.00	0.00	0.11
Other causes						0.00	0.00	0.71
Total						0.00	0.00	0.98
Notifications—								
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...						0.00	0.00	6.31

The ward distribution of the live births was :—

Wards.				Males.		Females.		Total.
Town Hall	....	....	....	19	....	16	....	35
Viaduct	....	....	....	21	....	13	....	34
Crow Lane	....	....	....	37	....	30	....	67
Newton	....	....	....	16	....	9	....	25
Wargrave	....	....	....	23	....	29	....	52
Born in and belonging to the District				116	....	97	....	213
Born outside but belonging to the District				72	....	72	....	144
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				188		169		357
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the District was 136. Six of these were of non-residents, and have been transferred to the districts in which they usually resided. 104 residents of this area died in other districts.

The distribution of the deaths was :—

Wards.				Males.		Females.		Total.
Town Hall	....	....	....	31	....	22	....	53
Viaduct	....	....	....	16	....	20	....	36
Crow Lane	....	....	....	25	....	22	....	47
Newton	....	....	....	27	....	12	....	39
Wargrave	....	....	....	39	....	20	....	59
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
				138		96		234
				<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

An analysis of the causes of death is shown below :—

Causes of Death.				Male.	Female.	Total.
Respiratory Tuberculosis	....	....	7	....	1	8
Influenza	....	....	1	....	2	3
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	....	....	—	....	1	1
Cancer: Buc. Cav. and Oesophagus (M)						
Uterus (F)	....	....	2	....	2	4
Cancer of Breast	....	....	1	....	2	3
Cancer: Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	3	....	2	5
Cancer: All other sites	....	....	18	....	9	27
Diabetes	....	....	2	....	2	4
Intra-Cranial Vas. Lesions	....	....	10	....	16	26
Heart Diseases	....	....	42	....	28	70
Other Circulatory Diseases	....	....	5	....	1	6
Bronchitis	....	....	14	....	6	20
Pneumonia	....	....	7	....	4	11
Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	1	....	4	5
Ulcer Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	2	....	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	1	....	1	2
Appendicitis	....	....	1	....	—	1
Other digestive diseases	....	....	2	....	—	2
Nephritis	....	....	1	..	1	2
Premature Birth	....	....	3	..	3	6
Congen. Mal., Birth Inj., Inf. Disease	....	....	4	....	1	5
Suicide	....	....	1	....	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	....	....	1	....	—	1
Other violent causes	....	....	4	....	3	7
All other causes	....	....	5	....	7	12
				138	96	234

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies.

The District's water supply, obtained from deep wells at the Council's Southworth Road Works, although very satisfactory qualitatively, has been insufficient for the growing demand, and has, therefore, been supplemented by the purchase of additional supplies from British Railways—a wholesome (but unchlorinated) raw water from mixed sources conveyed by a veritable network of mains. Consequent on the sinking of a test bore by the National Coal Board, a prolific supply of pure raw water from a deep artesian source was tapped, and application was made to use this as a source of public supply after suitable precautions and treatment. As a result of this application a Public Enquiry was held by Colonel Rhodes, an Inspector of the Ministry of Health, in June, 1949, when evidence was presented in support of the scheme. At the end of the year, however, no firm decision or consent to the proposal had been received.

6,247 dwelling houses, housing a population of 21,639 persons, are supplied with water from public mains. 3 houses with a total of 11 occupants, draw supplies from private wells and springs.

All new houses have been connected to the town's water mains.

The water is of a high degree of purity and, though very hard, is also very satisfactory chemically.

20 bacteriological examinations of the raw water, and 13 of the water going into supply after treatment, were made and were all highly satisfactory. The same applied to the 1 chemical analysis of the raw and 1 of the treated water.

Food—Inspection and Supervision of Supplies.

(a) **Milk Supply.** All cowsheds and milkshops were inspected at least twice a year and were generally, in a satisfactory condition.

Supervision of the production and distribution of this staple article of food was given all attention necessary to ensure as far as possible that only clean, wholesome milk was being retailed in the district.

Tuberculous milk—Number of samples submitted for				
biological test	....	....	....	31
Result—Positive, Nil.				
Negative, 31.				

Bacteriological examinations—Number of samples				
submitted	....	....	....	31
Satisfactory — 28.				
Unsatisfactory — 3.				

12

Formal.—23 formal samples of milk were taken. All samples were reported on as genuine.

Rivers and Streams.—Pollution of the several main streams running through the district from Ashton, Golborne, Haydock and St. Helens continues to varying degrees.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Extensions have been made to all new houses. Construction of the Sankey Valley sewer has commenced but it has not yet reached this district.

5. HOUSING.

1,638 houses are owned by the Council, 392 of which have been built in the post-war period.

During the year 94 traditional permanent houses have been erected by the local authority : 2 traditional permanent houses by other bodies or persons.

A scheme of 50 houses was in hand at the end of the year and two further schemes of 78 and 58 houses respectively were contemplated.

The number of houses needed to relieve the shortage, can only be estimated. Approximately 100 houses are needed to replace unfit dwellings ; 50 for overcrowded families ; and 550 to 600 for families living in apartments.

The types of house built between 60 to 120 years ago, are generally of sound construction but lacking amenities such as food stores, hot water, coal and other storage accommodation, as well as being below bye law standard in varying degrees.

There is also a number of cottages, with ages ranging from 150 to 300 years, which have nothing to recommend them except that they are picturesque and kept in reasonable repair.

Back to back houses are 2 in number ; back to earth houses 1 ; and single type (blank rear wall) number 3.

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	31
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	....	47
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	....	271

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding discovered during year	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
(c)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year								21
	Number of persons concerned in such cases	....							173

Closet Accommodation.—Every privy and pail in the district has been converted to the water carriage system, except the few which are beyond reach of a sewer, are below sewer level, or are isolated by streams, railway lines, or the canal.

Number of privy middens	....	....	....	38
Number of closets attached to these middens				52
Number of pail closets	....	....	....	35
Number of houses on water carriage system....				6,163

There are no waste water closets and no dry ashpits in the district.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house refuse and salvage by motor vehicles and disposal of the former, by controlled tipping are supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.

No regular cleansing of cesspools is undertaken.

Scavenging, snow removal, gully emptying, etc., are carried out by the Surveyor's department.

SECTION 6.

PREVENTION OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital facilities for the treatment of cases of infectious disease were provided at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Warrington. 88 cases were admitted to hospital compared with 46 during 1948.

Measles and Whooping Cough were epidemic during the year, the figure of 314 for the former illness constituting an all time record. Whooping Cough was, however, much less prevalent than in 1948, the 67 notifications being a figure more closely related to those for 1946 and 1947. At 89, the notifications of Scarlet Fever were the highest since 1944.

Only 2 notifications of poliomyelitis were received during the year, as against 5 in 1947, the last year during which the disease was prevalent throughout the Country.

No case of Diphtheria was confirmed during the year, the second successive year when this has been the case.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases Notified											Hospitals	
	Age Groups											Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to district
	Total cases at all ages	Under 1	1 +	3 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	25 +	45 +	65 and over	Age un-known	Total deaths	
Scarlet Fever ...	89	—	8	25	48	6	2	—	—	—	—	78	—
Measles ...	314	16	105	103	85	1	—	2	1	—	1	3	—
Whooping Cough...	67	3	21	24	16	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Ac. Pneumonia ...	23	3	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	2	—	11	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	3	4	—	3	—
Totals ...	507	22	134	152	150	10	3	12	4	6	1	88	4

Comparison of Principal Infectious Diseases, 1945-1949.

Disease	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Diphtheria	4	3	2	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	45	38	34	67	89
Measles	274	260	231	219	314
Whooping Cough	30	78	54	195	67
Pneumonia	41	40	51	50	23
Ac. Poliomyelitis	Nil.	1	5	Nil.	2

Distribution of Infectious Diseases	Town Hall	Viaduct	Crow Lane	Newton	Wargrave	Total
Measles ...	48	38	72	39	117	314
Whooping Cough ...	8	5	20	15	19	67
Erysipelas ...	3	2	2	2	3	12
Scarlet Fever ...	11	9	30	12	27	89
T.B. Lungs ...	4	—	4	2	4	14
T.B., other forms ...	—	—	3	2	1	6
Pneumonia, Primary ...	6	4	3	5	5	23
Ac. Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	1	2
Totals ...	80	58	135	77	177	527

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1949 :—

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years											
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	...	10	4	2	4	7	2	—	—
				14		6		9		Nil	

SECTION 7.
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(1) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	26	1	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	54	35	2	—
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	3	6	—	—
Totals	104	67	3	—

(2) **Cases in which Defects were found.**

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	remedied (4)	Referred :		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective... ..	2	2	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—	1	—

SECTION 8.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) Laboratory Arrangements.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens for bacteriological analysis may now be dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service at its Monsall Laboratory, Monsall Green, Near Manchester, or alternatively at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool. Samples of food and drugs for qualitative analysis are submitted to the County Analyst's Department at Preston, whilst as regards water supplies, the arrangements previously in force with Messrs. Melling & Arden, Manchester, have been continued.

(2) Hospital Arrangements.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board : Warrington & District Hospital Management Committee).

As regards hospitals the District lies within the boundaries of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, which administers Newton-le-Willows War Memorial (General) Hospital in Bradlegh Road, Wargrave, with a nominal establishment of 10 beds. The former Isolation Hospital has remained closed since its transfer to the Ministry and the Regional Hospital Board.

The great majority of persons requiring both general out-patient and in-patient investigation and treatment are dealt with by the Warrington Infirmary and by the General Hospital, Warrington, whilst cases of infectious disease requiring isolation are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Aikin Street, Warrington.

Expectant mothers requiring to be confined otherwise than in their own homes, whether on medical, obstetrical or environmental grounds, are normally admitted either to the maternity wards of the General Hospital, Warrington (if obstetrical complications are likely) or to the Victoria Park, Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington.

Child patients requiring attention in Children's Hospitals are admitted to the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Myrtle Street, Liverpool, and to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Manchester: and to the Leasowe Children's Hospital, Leasowe, Wirral, and the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital, Biddulph, Near Congleton, when specialised Orthopaedic care is indicated.

(3) Ambulance Arrangements.

Local Health Authority Services (No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council).

Full responsibility for the management and operation of the Ambulance Service was assumed by the County Ambulance Service as from 1st February, 1949, and the district is fortunately placed in containing a County Ambulance Station, sited, in conjunction with the Fire Station, in Gas Street, Earlestown (Telephone Newton-le-Willows 3134), from which three stretcher ambulances and two " sitting-case " cars have operated on behalf of all types of cases, i.e., emergency, infectious disease, and general.

There has been a very considerable increase in the public demand for ambulance transport, as is shown by the subjoined summary of cases conveyed from the Urban District. The Earlestown Ambulance Station, of course, serves other parts of the County Health Division, No. 10 also.

Summary of Cases Conveyed.

Emergency Cases, 409: General Cases, 2,953: Infectious Cases, 81:
Total, 3,443.

(4) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held weekly at Latham House, Cross Lane, on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, and an Ante-Natal Clinic each Wednesday afternoon. Attendances at these sessions have been well maintained throughout the year, as is shown by the following figures :—

Child Welfare Centre, Latham House.

Assistant Divisional Medical Officer—Dr. E. A. Lumley (Tuesday afternoon session).

Health Visitor in Charge —Miss I. Heap.

			No. of children in attendance.		No. of attendances.
Age under 1	510	.... 6,792
1—2 years	228	.... 1,385
2—4 years	128	.... 513
				<hr/> 866	<hr/> 8,690
				<hr/>	<hr/>

No. of individual expectant mothers
attending C.W.C. 18. No. of attendances 38.

Ante-Natal Clinic, Latham House.

Visiting Obstetrician—Dr. C. Macdonald.

Health Visitor in Charge—Miss I. Heap.

No. of individual women attending, 232: No. of attendances, 742.

School Clinic, The Gables, Crow Lane West.

The work at this Clinic has continued, although not perhaps to quite the same extent as formerly, owing to the changes brought about by the National Health Service Act, whereby the general medical care and treatment of the school child becomes the responsibility of the family practitioner who has accepted the child on his list.

Both general medical and specialist sessions are held, as detailed below :—

Assist. Divisional and School Medical Officer—Dr. W. Paterson.

School Nurse and Health Visitor—Miss Forshaw.

Assist. Divisional Medical Officer's Session each Friday morning during school term.

Nurse's re-dressing, etc., session each Wednesday morning during school term.

Dental.

Dental Surgeon—Mr. A. E. Shaw.

Dental Assistant—Miss Entwistle.

The Dental Officer is normally consulted by appointment, but exception has always been made in emergency, especially where urgent treatment is required for the relief of pain. Most of this work is, (as it should be) of a conservative nature. He serves other Clinics at Haydock, Huyton and elsewhere, but has usually undertaken his work at the Clinic here on Mondays and Thursdays. Not only is he concerned with the dental health of school children, but also with that of expectant mothers, and of nursing mothers referred from the Ante-Natal Clinic and Child Welfare Centres.

Ophthalmic.

Ophthalmologist—Dr. E. Allan.

School Nurse in attendance—Miss A. Forshaw.

Sessions held weekly each Monday—mornings and afternoons on alternate weeks.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon may only be consulted by appointment.

Orthopaedic.

Orthopaedic Surgeon—Mr. Almond.

Orthopaedic Nurse—Miss Graham.

The Orthopaedic Surgeon attends one half day session monthly, seeing both new and old cases by appointment: the Nurse attends one whole day weekly, for the purpose of supervising the treatment prescribed, for adjustment of splints, etc., and for the tuition of remedial exercises to improve defects and deformities in posture, stance, feet, etc.

(5) Midwifery Arrangements.

Four whole-time salaried Midwives are employed by the Local Health Authority for the purpose of conducting domiciliary confinements either as midwives (when assuming sole responsibility for the delivery) or as maternity nurses (when assisting at delivery, etc., in conjunction with a doctor). Each midwife possesses a car in order to enable her to respond speedily to urgent calls, and to transport her anaesthesia apparatus.

Names and addresses of these Midwives are as follows :—

Mrs. S. E. Butler, 46, Kingsway, Wargrave, Newton-le-Willows ;

Mrs. E. A. Howard, 89, Birley Street, Newton-le-Willows ;

Mrs. M. Stead, 9, Heald Street, Earlestown ;

Mrs. A. Whittle, 70, Cross Lane, Earlestown.

No private midwife practises in the District, so that these ladies were responsible for attendance on the 218 domiciliary confinements which took place during the year. The fact that there were no cases of puerperal pyrexia or fever, and no maternal deaths associated with child birth, is surely the highest tribute to the skill and care bestowed on the parturient mothers.

(6) Health Visiting Arrangements.

This work has been carried out by two whole-time and fully trained Health Visitors (who combine with Health Visiting duties those

of School Nurse), and by one part-time Health Visitor: these domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and of the health education of the families, are of course complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above. The names and addresses of the Health Visitors engaged are :—

Miss I. Heap, Maynard, Belvedere Road, Earlestown ;

Miss A. Forshaw, Shotley Mount, Newton Road, Lowton :

Mrs. M. Parker (Part-time), Higher Astley, Vitriol Square,
Earlestown.

(7) Home Nursing Arrangements.

Home nursing is undertaken by two whole-time nurses who formerly practised as “ District Nurses ” and have since agreed to be transferred to the Local Health Authority’s staff and to continue their beneficent roles in the homes of the sick. The demand for their services has grown very considerably during the year, and although part-time relief nurses have also assisted from time to time, an extension of the staff is contemplated in the near future.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Mrs. M. M. Charnley, 3, Park Avenue North, Newton-le-Willows ;

Miss D. Johnson, 38, High Street, Newton-le-Willows.

(8) Home Help Arrangements.

This is a “ permissory ” service provided by the County Council through the No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one which is not necessarily provided free of cost to the public. Its aim is to provide domestic help when required by reason of the presence in a household of sickness, pregnancy, maternity, mental deficiency, or to assist in the care of a child or children. The service has been used during the year in question to a moderate degree only, probably because the public, not having had previous experience of this recently formulated scheme, have not been very fully aware of the facilities provided.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time “ helps ” : no whole-time workers are employed. The Home Help Organiser and Welfare Worker is responsible for the immediate day to day operation of the scheme and is of course one of the Divisional Medical Officer’s Staff. She is :—

Miss D. C. Wilson, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory,
Winwick.

(9) Mental Health Arrangements.

The district is covered for this purpose by the Duly Authorised Officer of No. 10 Health Division and by a lady Mental Health Worker, who deal with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Lunacy Acts, Mental Deficiency Acts and the Mental Treatment Act. The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. P. D. Parker, 12, Kenyon Lane, Lowton, Near Warrington ;
Miss M. Hargan, Divisional Health Offices, The Old Rectory,
Winwick.

(10) Arrangements for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care, (including Tuberculosis), and the provision of Convalescent Accommodation.

Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis : “ illness ” includes mental defectiveness. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes, including those of persons suffering from Tuberculosis, the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor for the District is Miss Webster, who maintains supervision of patients in their homes, and arranges for their examination or re-examination, and for that of contacts (including X-ray investigation) at the Chest Clinic (formerly the Tuberculosis Dispensary) at St. Helens, a branch of the main area Chest Clinic at Waterloo, Liverpool, administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

As regards Health Education—(a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness)—it is pertinent here to emphasize that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant, and should, in my view, continue to be exercised.

(11) Vaccination and Immunisation Arrangements.

Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria are available to all who desire it, either through the family doctor, who carries it out

as part of his duties to the patient, or by attendance at the monthly immunisation sessions held at the Child Welfare Centre, Latham House, where this work is carried out by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officer.

As regards the immunisation position, there are no grounds for complacency, whilst the vaccination state is to my mind, deplorable and potentially dangerous.

During the year a total of 255 children under 15 years of age completed a full course of immunisation, of which 224 were under the age of 5 years, and 96 were infants under 12 months old. In addition to the above, 165 persons over the age of 15 years also completed a full course of immunisation (mainly at the Home Office Approved School), making a grand total of 420.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under the age of 15 in an immunised state as at 31st December, 1949, was 55.82 per cent., as against a figure of 57.45 per cent. for the child population in Health Division 10 as a whole.

In contrast to the above, only 21 children and 10 adults underwent primary vaccination (all successfully) whilst 6 adults were re-vaccinated. If one deducts from the total of 346 live births belonging to the District in 1948, the 30 infant deaths, this means that out of the 316 survivors only 21 were vaccinated—or only 1 in every 15 children. This can only be regarded as a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs.

9. THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

This Act became effective on 5th July, 1948, and 1949 has, therefore, been the first full calendar year of its operation.

In the main it provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day to day operation of the Service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis.

The Newton Urban District lies administratively within the purview of the Area Children's Officer of the Wigan Area, who is assisted

by Childrens Social Workers, the latter being responsible for all matters relating to "deprived" children, e.g., the provision of accommodation, the inspection and report on prospective foster homes, infant life protection, supervision of adopted children during the probationary period, the care and conveyance to suitable "places of safety" of children committed by the Courts to the care of the Authority as a "fit person" under the provisions of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, and so on.

The Area Children's Officers and their Visitors work in close co-operation with the Divisional Medical Officers and their staffs, and I am happy to say that in this District (included in No. 10 Health Division), the relationship is most effective and cordial.

The Wigan Area Children's Officer is :—

Mr. W. J. Payne, 41, Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince, Wigan ;
and the children's Visitor for the Urban District is :—

Miss J. W. Cole, 41, Ince Green Lane, Higher Ince, Wigan.

10. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The year 1949 has also been the first full calendar year during which the above Act has been in operation. So far as the Urban District is concerned, the Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of the Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case, also, is on the divisional basis. The main provisions of Part III relate to accommodation for persons who, by virtue of circumstances which could not reasonably have been foreseen, are without lodging, and to Welfare Services in general, for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 50 of the Act is of importance in that it places on this County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority."

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS.

**REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1949.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

The agency arrangements under which the Council continued to operate the Ambulance Service on behalf of the County Council terminated on 1st February, thereby relieving the department of the responsibility of a service which had increased its scope and had expanded so rapidly since the vesting date, that its demands could only be met at the expense of other branches of the department's work.

The coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, together with the various Milk and Dairies (Special Designation) Regulations, caused a large increase in duties including the compilation of new registers.

The staff has met all demands cheerfully and competently and my best thanks are due to them.

The measure of the work performed is to be found in the following pages. There is no satisfactory standard by which the effect of that work on the health of the public can be assessed.

The consideration and assistance given by all Members and Officers of the Council, have been appreciated and I record my sincere thanks.

1. Housing.

The position regarding repairs was much more satisfactory although the time lag between service of notices and completion of the works specified was again lengthy.

The number of defects recorded was 696, and the number remedied 1,015, which indicates that a number of the outstanding notices from previous years were complied with. It may also indicate that the delays due to shortage of materials are being eliminated, although difficulties in connection with the supply of eaves guttering and cement are still apparent.

Overcrowding, and insanitary houses incapable of repair, continued to give much concern, but it is pleasing to report that the Housing Committee found it possible to remove the largest family in

the District from a three-bedroomed private house to a six bedroomed council house.

The responsibility for the replacement of dustbins was queried by a few owners following press reports of Court decisions on appeals against notices requiring provision of bins by owners. There was no local appeal.

2. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—New regulations concerning Milk and Dairies, and Special Designations came into operation on 1st October, 1949.

The main administrative changes were :—

(a) that the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the registration of dairy farmers and of dairy farms, in place of local authorities, and

(b) that Food and Drugs Authorities became responsible for the granting of dealers' (pasteurisers' and sterilisers') licences.

The new designation " Sterilised Milk " was introduced.

Whilst maintaining routine and special visits throughout the year, except for dairy farms from 1st October, registrations and licences were granted or issued as follows :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of Distributors of Milk registered	56
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Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licences.

No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Pasteurised " 14
No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Sterilised " 38
No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Tuberculin Tested " 10

Supplementary Licences.

No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Pasteurised " 4
No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Sterilised " 1
No. authorising the use of the special designation	
	" Tuberculin Tested " 1

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.** All types of food premises were visited as often as possible and forthwith upon request. The state of cleanliness of the premises, utensils, workers' clothing, etc., were noted at each visit and the foodstuffs handled were inspected.

The following items were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered for destruction :—

Foodstuffs condemned :—

Nature.					Quantities.		
					Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Rabbits, frozen	....	....	....	....	2	2	20
Wet Fish	....	....	....	....	—	3	0
Cheese	....	....	....	....	—	2	24
Fruit	....	....	....	....	—	2	21
Butter	....	....	....	....	—	1	12
Fat	....	....	....	....	—	2	7
Sundries	....	....	....	....	—	1	1
Total	....	....	....	....	6	0	1

Canned Goods.

Meat	41 tins	Vegetables	299 tins
Fish	44 tins	Milk	628 tins
Jam and Fruit	256 tins	Sauce & Pickles	1,177 bottles
		Coffee Extract	419 bottles

(c) **Adulteration of Food.**

The Council is a Food and Drugs Authority and 23 formal and 19 informal samples of food were taken and submitted to the County Analyst. All were found to be unadulterated.

3. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A weekly collection of house refuse has been maintained by three Dennis, 10 cu. yd., Chelsea type, vehicles.

The former sand pit at Southworth Road was still in use as a controlled tip.

Various directions imposing duties on local authorities with regard to collection of waste materials as salvage, were removed during the year and some local authorities and private firms found difficulty in disposing of waste paper. Due to the foresight of the Council in entering into a contract with the board mills at the commencement of local

salvage collections, no local difficulty was experienced so far as paper was concerned.

Prices for waste paper were reduced in October, and markets for some salvageable items were closed, yet income from the sale of salvage showed an increase of £72 12s. 9d. over 1948.

The main increases were recorded in paper and glass cullet, the latter being augmented by glass jars for which no market could be found.

Increases over 1948 were :—

Paper	....	....	....	13 tons	11 cwts.	£85	9	1
Glass Cullet	....	....	....	6 tons	19 cwts.	£3	15	9
String	....	....	....		5 cwts.	£2	10	0

Materials Salvaged during Year.

Material.	Weight.			Income.		
	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	123	5	0
Bottles, 24 doz.	—	2	3
Rags	1	14	0
Ferrous Metals	—	14	0
Non-ferrous Metals	—	3	0
Glass Cullet	16	19	0
Bones	—	5	0
String	—	9	0
Total	143	11	3

4. Infectious Diseases—Control.

Enquiries were made upon notification. Disinfection of rooms and bedding was carried out in all cases of removal of tuberculous patients. In other cases rooms were dealt with only on request.

Visits by Inspectors	....	....	....	....	127
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	39

5. Vermin Control.

No. of houses found to be infested—

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	9
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	12
No. of visits to verminous premises	....	....	....	70
No. of verminous premises treated	....	....	....	36

6. Rodent Control.

One rodent operative is employed on this work and the Ministry's recommended methods of block control and disinfestation are employed.

The number of infestations found and treated was :—

Dwelling houses	....	....	....	....	51
Business premises	....	....	....	....	38
					—
Total	...	...	....	....	89
					—

A charge is made for the treatment of business premises but there is a free service for dwelling houses.

Two firms with premises within the District have arranged for inspections to be made at regular intervals, and for treatment to be carried out when necessary.

The sewers of the district were treated twice and the Council's sewage disposal works and refuse tip were baited regularly.

Treatment of Sewers	Treatment No. 8	Treatment No. 9
Total number of manholes	530	530
Dates of treatment	2nd to 14 May	7th to 11th Nov.
Bait base used	Bread mash.	Sausage rusk.
Poison used	Arsenic.	Zinc. Phosphide.
Number of manholes baited *	246	251
Number of manholes showing take of bait	81	57
Number of manholes showing complete take	62	39
Number of manholes test baited and not included at *	70	Nil
Scheme of baiting	Consecutive days.	

7. Statistical Summary of Inspections Made, Notices Served, etc.

Complaints received and investigated	375
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Analysis of Visits Made.

(a) General Sanitation.

Water supply	135
Drainage	213
Stables and Piggeries	....	....	....	....	....	23
Fried Fish Shops....	....	....	....	....	....	24
Common Lodging Houses	....	....	....	....	....	3
Factories	....	....	....	....	....	61
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	22
Refuse Collection and Disposal	....	....	....	....	....	103
Licensed houses	....	....	....	....	....	3
Shops	....	....	....	....	....	30
Schools	....	....	....	....	....	19
Rats and Mice	....	....	....	....	....	68
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	....	17
Smoke Observations	....	....	....	....	....	8
Total	....	....	....	....	....	<hr/>729 <hr/>

(b) Housing.

Under Public Health Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	537
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	1273

Under Housing Acts.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	27
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	45

Overcrowding.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	35
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	36

Verminous Premises.

No. of houses inspected	....	....	....	21
Visits paid to above	....	....	....	28

Miscellaneous Housing Visits

(including Points Scheme)....	....	....	....	<hr/>66 <hr/>
Total	....	....	....	<hr/>2068 <hr/>

(c) **Infectious Diseases.**

Inquiries in cases of I.D. ....	....	....	....	127
Visits re disinfections ....	....	....	....	13
				<hr/>
Total ....	....	....	....	140
				<hr/>

(d) **Meat and Food Inspection.**

Inspection of meat—slaughtering ....	....	5
Inspection of meat—shops and stalls ....	....	10
Visits to butchers ....	....	19
Fishmongers, etc. ....	....	5
Grocers ....	....	34
Greengrocers and fruiterers ....	....	11
Cowsheds ....	....	49
Dairies and milk shops ....	....	119
Ice cream premises ....	....	25
Food preparing premises ....	....	46
Market Stalls ....	....	573
Street vendors and hawkers' carts ....	....	6
Restaurants ....	....	9

Visits in connection with Sampling.

Milk—Bacteriological ....	....	35
Milk—Tubercle bacilli ....	....	35
Food and Drugs Samples ....	....	42
Water Sampling ....	....	41
		<hr/>
Total ....	....	1064
		<hr/>
Total inspections and visits ....	....	4001
		<hr/> <hr/>

Notices Served.

No. of informal notices served	260
No. of informal notices complied with ....	....	332
No. of statutory notices served ....	....	91
No. of statutory notices complied with ....	....	55

Analysis of Defects noted and remedied.

Type of Defect.	Recorded.	Remedied.
Drainage	56	63
Dustbins	57	60
Paving of yards and passages	4	8
Water supply	31	46

Roofs	....	....	....	....	59	....	81
Eavesgutters	....	....	....	....	35	....	70
Downspouts	....	....	....	....	15	....	25
Brickwork and/or pointing	....	....	....	....	58	....	76
Chimneys and Flues	....	....	....	....	5	....	10
Plastering	....	....	....	....	122	....	185
Floors	....	....	....	....	32	....	65
Windows	....	....	....	....	144	....	65
Doors and/or frames	....	....	....	....	1	....	6
Fireplaces	....	....	....	....	28	....	39
Woodwork	....	....	....	....	5	....	11
Washing accommodation	....	....	....	....	14	....	12
Cooking	....	....	....	....	5	....	6
Sinks, etc.	....	....	....	....	4	....	12
W.C.'s Basins, etc.	....	....	....	....	69	....	115
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	....	52	....	60
Total	....	....	....	....	696	....	1,015

8. Shops Acts.

The Council is a Shops Acts Authority and has appointed the two sanitary inspectors to act as shops acts inspectors.

In addition to inspections in connection with the sanitary provisions of the Act, the number of such visits being recorded in the Statistical Summary, observations were kept on closing hours, half day closing, employment of young persons, etc.

Each shop was visited at least once during the year ; thirty one evenings were spent in checking that the appropriate closing hours were being observed ; and on ten Sundays, observations were kept with reference to the Shops (Sunday Trading Restriction) Act.

Generally the provisions of the Act were observed, and contraventions were, in the main, by inexperienced persons who started in business without ascertaining their duties under the Act.

Difficulties were also experienced due to the absence of a Local Order fixing the weekly half holiday.

It is expected, following the Gower's Report, that Shops Acts legislation will be consolidated, and, we hope, made less complicated,

The following contraventions were dealt with by warnings :—

Failure to affix notice specifying early closing day ....	....	12
Failure to affix exempted goods notices on early closing day		15
Failure to affix exempted goods notices on Sunday ....	....	16

In the cases of two shops and one vehicle found selling fried fish and chips between 12-10 and 12-30 a.m. on Sunday morning, the Council decided that severe warnings would be sufficient.

Yours faithfully,

L. M. BOOTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

